

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 645

BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLINGTON AND SENATOR APPEL

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: Provides relative to the annual canvass of persons registered to vote

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:192(A)(1)(a), relative to the annual canvass of persons  
3 registered to vote; to provide for when the canvass shall be conducted; to provide  
4 relative to the duties of registrars of voters and the Department of State; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:192(A)(1)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §192. Annual canvass; costs

9 A.(1)(a) No later than June thirtieth in each parish, the registrar of voters  
10 shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish.  
11 ~~However, the annual canvass shall not be conducted in a parish prior to a regularly~~  
12 ~~scheduled primary or general election held pursuant to R.S. 18:402(C)(1) and (2);~~  
13 ~~402(D)(1) and (2), or 1280.21(A).~~ Failure of the registrar to conduct an annual  
14 canvass as provided in this Paragraph shall constitute willful misconduct relating to  
15 his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The Department of State shall use  
16 the United States Postal Service or its licensee to verify the names and addresses of  
17 the registrants in all precincts in the state. A verification by the United States Postal  
18 Service or its licensee shall constitute a valid canvass of the registered voter.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Ellington

HB No. 645

**Abstract:** Removes provision that prohibits the annual canvass of persons registered to vote from being conducted prior to certain regularly scheduled elections.

Present law requires each registrar of voters to annually canvass the names of persons registered to vote. Provides procedures for verifying the names and addresses of such registrants. Provides procedures and requirements for correction and cancellation of registrations in conjunction with the canvass. Provides that the registrar of voters shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish no later than June. Provides that the failure of a registrar to conduct the canvass as required pursuant to present law constitutes willful misconduct relating to his official duty for purposes of present law provisions relative to removal of a registrar by the State Board of Election Supervisors. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides further that the annual canvass shall not be conducted in a parish prior to a regularly scheduled primary or general election for municipal and ward officers not elected at the same time as the governor or members of congress, or for parochial and municipal officers in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more, or prior to the presidential preference primary. Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:192(A)(1)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Specifies the date by which the canvass must be complete as the 30th of June.